Highest temperature yesterday, 73; lowest, 60. Detailed weather reports on last page.

VOL. LXXXVI.-NO. 16.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1918. - Copyright, 1918, by the Sun Printing and Publishing

PRICE TWO CENTS.

BERLIN PROPOSES PEACE PLAN TO BELGIUM; VIENNA ASKS PARLEY WITHOUT ARMISTICE; AMERICANS GAIN 3 MILES ON 33 MILE FRONT

METZ FORTS IN **ACTION; OUR BIG GUNS REPLYING**

of Americans Advance Brings Them Within Range of Lorraine.

ENEMY STILL RETREATS

More Than 200 Cannon and Other Booty Obtained by Pershing's Men.

Panis, Sept. 15.-The American First Army, under the direct com man' of Gen. Pershing, resumed its odvance to-day from its base across the old St. Mihlel salient and on a front of thirty-three miles, extending from northeast of Verdun, at Abauourt, to the Moselle River, some miles south of Pagny, the gain made a general was between two and three miles, with a maximum penetration of four. American patrols, moreover, are operating two miles or more in advance of the front.

The Germans are retiring before the Americans with little resistance. Apparently they are withdrawing to positions where they can better proect the system of rallroads which feel Metz from the west and south, some of which, notably those which centre at Conflans, are under direct American fire already.

mes Into Action. The great fortress of Metz has

ture shells on the American lines. There are reports also that some American big guns have taken posithous where they can reach Metz, and south and north of Holnon Wood. to show the Germans that they mean i shells into the German city. t has been discovered that there

German artillery and machine guns 6:20 o'clock the Laffaux mill was car-Fracting's army continued to-day the consolidation of their lines facing the consolidation of the situation of all the performance of the Germans and they proach of the Americans. He got as far I knew it was no use. I told my squad as Nonsand where he ran into a group of the position by the French regressents the gaining of a valuable portion of the situation of all the performance of the situation of all the performance of the consolidation of the situation of all the performance Pershing's army continued to-day the ried. Additional controllary with the present representation of the present presents the present presents the present present the pr

Continued on Third Page.

Metz Threatened by Pershing's Advance; Alsace and Baden Also Put in Danger

CENEVA, Sept. 15 .- South German newspapers view with surprise and evidently even with fear the American victory in the St. Mihiel region. Their military critics consider the section now occupied by the Franco-Americans as most dangerous, since it is a direct threat to Metz.

The Mulhausen Tageblatt says the American offensive in upper Alsace with heavy artillery, which could destroy towns in the Duchy of Baden, is causing terror among the population. The evacuation of Mulhausen and even all of Alsace is being talked about, according to this newspaper.

Swiss military critics assert that the American offensive in the Woevre was not a surprise to the Germans and that they therefore were beaten on their merits by a stronger force. These experts praise Gen. Pershing's advance, considering it not a local tactical attack but an important strategic movement which may result in bringing closer the end of the war.

HINDENBURG'S **ENEMY BLOCKED** LINE CRACKING ROADS IN FLIGHT

New Wedge Is Driven Into It American Engineers Kept Busy now possible to give a summary of the Along Soissons-Mau-Removing Obstacles in beuge Road. the Woevre.

LAFFAUX MILL CAPTURED TANKS TAKE PRISONERS and Austrian soldiers, for Austrians

Among Them Were Eager

to Give Up Fighting.

By RAYMOND G. CARROLL.

Public Ledger

Coppright, 1918; all rights reserved.

rut down trees to block the roads as

emoved by our engineer regiments.

Finds Commander a Captive.

obstacles to transportation.

Allies Continue Encircling Poles, Czechs and Alsatians Movement About St. Quentin-Maissemy Taken.

London, Sept. 15.—The encircling movement about St. Quentin continues. advancing armies of the Allies trying not the south against the St. Gobain massi and Laon. The British to-day captured one into action and is throwing Maissemy, northwest of St. Quentin, and passing on took possession of the old trench system to the east and southeas

of it, together with 100 prisoners. Progress was made also last night the British right the French made adbusiness have already hurled some ditional gains in their movement to the south of St. Quentin, advancing as far as Fontaine les Clercs.

In the new offensive begun by were six German divisions operating French yesterday to the south of this the St. Mildel salient. That would district, west of the La Pere-Laon line. a total strength of 60,000 men, or several villages were occupied and the a title strength of \$6,000. The Ger-number of prisoners taken was more more divisions in this action, thus
Three strong counter attacks near VauxThursday orders came for the troops to One great and impressive feature of on The Government announces that 2 reducing their strength in the west to allow, northeast of Soissons, were relicious and some dismounted cavalry.

The Government announces that 2 reducing their strength in the west to allow, northeast of Soissons, were respectively and increasing and impressive feature of the prince-American "failure" to bottle up the prince-American and impressive feature of the prince-American suggestions had been moralization of the German troops. The Government announces that 2 reducing their strength in the west to allow, northeast of Soissons, were respectively and into the discard. He dwells also on the Prince-American "failure" to bottle up the Government announces that 2 reducing their strength in the west to allow, northeast of Soissons, were respectively and into the discard. He dwells also on the Prince-American "failure" to bottle up the prince-American "failure" to bottle up the Government announces that 2 reducing their strength in the west to allow, northeast of Soissons, were respectively and into the discard. He dwells also on the Prince-American "failure" to bottle up the prince-American "failure" to bottle up the prince-American "failure" to bottle up the Government announces that 2 reducing their strength in the west to allow, northeast of Soissons, were respectively and the prince-American "failure" to bottle up the Government announces that 2 reducing their strength in the grant of the form of the Government announces that 2 reducing their strength in the west to allow, northeast of Soissons, were respectively and the prince-American "failure" to be the bottle up the Government announces that 2 reducing their strength in the grant of the Government announces.

The Government announces that 2 reducing the form of the Government announces that 2 reducing the form of the Government announces that 2 reducing the form of the Government announces that 2 reducing the form of the Government announces that 3 reducing the form of the Government announces that 3 reducing the form of The Associated Press correspondent with The Associated Press correspondent ing Saturday, says the French progress some one higher up to provide transport morale has cracked. How significant with the fortress of Metz in the backs States also had been made acquainted with the American army in France was so rapid that at one point a German say's that hindered only slightly by the colonel and his staff were captured. At hours,

the required challenges, but he has been the rear in which the men, walking placed under arrest for further investi- four abreast, made a line more than gation. did right in obeying orders to fire after prisoners we had taken marching to

FOE'S MORALE **BROKE DOWN** ATST. MIHIEL

German Sergeant, Now Prisoner, Said It Was Useless to Fight Americans.

U. S. TANKS EFFECTIVE

One Captured Two Villages, Battery of Field Guns and 75 Prisoners.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SEX. Coppright, 1918; all rights reserved. WITH THE AMERICAN FIRST ARMY, Sept. 15 .- With the first lull-perhaps t would be better to say breathing period-in the battle of St. Mihlel, it is fighting, the significance of the American attack and advance, the behavior of the Americans and the general fear Amazing Deception of German the presence of these fighters has struck into the hearts of the German are numbered among the prisoners captured.

It is in the cleaning up period of the first fighting that this story is being written, the time between attacks for the Americans are on their way Public Led to Believe That again to-day, advancing and striking terror into the hearts of the enemy.

The first counter attack has come Service Cable Despatch to THE Sts and the and gone, and following this is the period to write of the gains, for the counter attack has been repulsed and WITH THE AMERICAN PIRST ARMY IN St. Miliel salient in its conformation suggests Westchester county, New York, being hilly, with occasional deep ra-The German trench system that possible of attempting to wrest this writer, telegraphing Friday, asserts the our supplies and ammunition have to pass over proved to be a network of fighters in Europe.

he retired and huge trucks were left, readers know, was fought by American prepared for such an eventuality. crosswise in the roadways; all had to be Amazing incidents were frequent in the American advance showing the con- as one of the swiftest and most complete that "possession of St Mihiel was valua- as well as to request and give frank A German allied victories of the whole war. By ble only as long as we could hope it and candid explanations on all those Major with his entire staff walked into the same token it can be taken as a fore he started to walk out. He was quickness to surrender has been justified, youd Thiaucourt, while the Briev mine apprised of the proposal in a special chiefly concerned over the neglect of and for the time being at least their basin also a within easy reach. But note. The Governments of the neutral tation and continued to talk of it for this may be remains to be seen. A Ger. ground, he thinks any designs upon with the proposal day and who fought against American failure.

tion or publication. It employs no agents or solicitors.

Outline of Terms Offered to Belgium

LONDON, Sept. 15.—In her offer of peace to Belgium Germany makes the following

terms: That Belgium shall remain neutral until the end of the war. That thereafter the entire economic and political inde-pendence of Belgium shall be

reconstituted. That the pre-war commer-cial treaties between Germany and Belgium shall again be put into operation after the war for an indefinite period. That Belgium shall use her good offices to secure the re-

turn of the German colonies. That the Flemish question shall be considered, and the Flemish minority, which aided the German invaders, shall not be penalized.

ST. MIHIEL COUP

People as to Extent of Pershing's Feat.

TERMED AN EVACUATION

Army Bottled Up in Salient Made Its Escape.

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 15.—Berlin newsthe ground captured in the initial ad- papers contain little comment of their vances remains in the possession of own on the American drive against the the Americans. The Germans have no St. Miliel salient, except the Socialist thought-some even say that it is im- Vorscoerts, Herr Koester, its military territory from the hands of the newest Franco-American attack did not come as a surprise. He believes it may be part of another big offensive which will break at some other points on the front and The battle of St. Miniel, as THE SUN asserts the German command is fully be charged to make known to one an-

soldlers entirely under the direction of Koester explains the ready abandon-ments regarding those principles and American Generals, and stands out now ment of the salient by the statement to receive analogous communications, would support a German thrust past smashing defeat for the Germans, both Verdun," which idea now seems to have from the military and moral standpoints, gone into the discard. He dwells also man sergeant who was captured yester. German soil or Briey are doomed to

troops at Chateau Thierry last June The Fossische Zeitung prints a capsaid:
"When I saw the Americans coming caps "St Milief bend quietly evac-

AUSTRIA SEEKS UNBINDING TALK HELD SECRETLY

Ignores Aims of America: Protests Against Ruination of Europe.

NEUTRALS ARE INVITED

Wants Delegates of Belligerents to Exchange Views on Basic Principles.

By the Associated Press. AMSTERDAM, Sept. 15 .- In extending an invitation to all the belligerent governments to enter into non-binding discussions at some neutral meeting place the Austro-Hungarian Govconference would be to obtain an ex change of views which would show whether those prerequisites exist which would make the speedy inauguration of peace negotiations appear promising."

The Austrian proposal, which is angests that there be no interruption of the war, and that the "discussions

Would Discuss Basic Points.

The proposal calls for all belligerent to send delegates for a "confidential and unbinding discussion on the basic principles for the conclusion of peace in a place in a neutral country and at near date that would yet have to be agreed upon."

The proposal says the conference would be one of "delegates who would other the conception of their Governpoints which need to be precisely de-

The Official Communication. The text of the official communication

Enemy's Proposal for Withdrawal of Troops From Murman Coast Regarded as Crafty Move to Overcome Disadvantage

OFFER TO BELGIUM SEEN AS TRICK TO SAVE GERMANY FROM HAVOC

Allied Diplomatist Discerns Foe's Attempt to Jockey Entente Into False Position by Means of Insidious Propaganda

> Special Cable Despatch to THE SUR. Copyright, 1918; all rights reserved

LONDON, Sept. 15 .- Germany is striking swiftly in her peace offensive. In addition to the Austrian note inviting all the belligerents to a hazy peace conference and a proposition that all the Powers should withdraw their troops from the Murman coast, on the Arctic, west of Archangel, Berlin has made a definite peace offer to Belgium, in which there is no word of reparation or indemnity, no confession or admission ernment states that the object of the that Germany has wronged Belgium by the destruction of her cities and the murder of her non-combatant population. -

The dishonesty of the proposal is apparent; it is another Brest-Litovsk scheme. The offer of independence to Belgium after the war if she promises neutrality now is trickery.

It is apparent that Germany realizes now that soon or late nounced in an official communication she must withdraw from Belgium, and if she could obtain a telegraphed here from Vienna, sug- treaty which would bar Belgian territory to the Allies' troops and aircraft it would add enormously to the difficulties of atwould go only so far as is considered tacks by the Allies against German territory and cities and by the participants to offer prospects would rob the Allies of the advantages accruing from the use of a Belgian jumping off place, while Germany escapes any sort of payment for the crimes she has committed.

The trick in the Murman coast proposal lies in the fact that while the Allies are well established there German troops are far distant and the Finns are showing more reluctance to assist the Germans and attack the Allies.

Washington Long Expected freely from Berlin and Vienna since Peace Offensive and Is Prepared for It.

Allies and U. S. to Answer Jointly, if at All, Repeat-

THE NATIONAL CITY COMPANY.

New Office—its Pitch Avenue.

Our Tax Department is at your service in negotiation—and if there are still such authors and the company of the c

Continued on Second Page meeting for the Hinribition of siems, buch a conference would hear

Development of Peace Offensive.

ion of peace discussions is the logical and anticipated culmination of the eries of statements and interviews which have been given the world so ton Hittige, 154 German Imperial Foreign Secretary.

to the Austrian capital. In fact its promulgation was preceded by the statement of Count con-TEUTON INTRIGUE BARED Hertling, the German Imperial Chancellor, on Friday that "he confidently lighed we were nearer pears than

generally believed." Attention also is called to a remark by Archibake Joseph, communding the